

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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C.O. FUND OFFERS WAR SACRIFICE CERTIFICATES

In response to the expressed wishes of donors for some tangible evidence of sacrifice in time of national emergency comparable to that made by purchasers of War Bonds and War Savings Stamps, the Conscientious Objector Committee has issued a Civilian Public Service Certificate which will be sent to every person or organization which gives \$25 or more to the Conscientious Objector Fund during the calendar year. The certificate is $8\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ in size, and is beautifully printed in two colors on a good quality of paper. Names of donors will be lettered in old English characters. These certificates are being supplied without cost to the Conscientious Objector Fund. Already several certificates have been granted among them, two for \$70 each and two for \$35 each.

Contributions to the Conscientious Objector Fund have now totaled \$6,216.32. All charges for Disciples in the camps have been paid to January 1, 1942, and efforts are now being made to secure sufficient funds to clear all obligations on June 30. With the increase in the number of men assigned to these camps, due to the increased rate of induction of men into the armed services, Conscientious Objector Committee will need considerable additional money in order to meet all unpaid charges to June 30. An intensified campaign for additional funds is now being carried on.

Experimentation with assignment of conscientious objectors to specialized types of service outside of Civilian Public Service camps is going on with increasing evidences of satisfaction. These men are above the average in education and attainment (a number of them are Ph.D.'s, some are engineers, farmers, skilled mechanics, etc.) and they possess many skills that are needed in civilian life at this time. A group of 20 men assigned to hospital duty in Chicago proved so satisfactory that the hospital authorities asked for the assignment of 15 additional men to the unit. A second large unit is working, on hook worm eradication and prevention, in Florida. In several areas "Disaster Squads" have been organized and in some instances they have rendered invaluable service, especially following tornadoes at Henry, Illinois and Goshen, Indiana. A unit assigned to the Burma Road has been re-assigned to Puerto Rico. Reports from Department of Agriculture field men indicate that men assigned to dairy farms in New York have more than made good.

DR. PALMER TO BE FORUM LEADER AT GRAND RAPIDS

Dr. Albert W. Palmer, President of Chicago Theological Seminary and internationally known religious leader will lead the forum discussion on "The Bases of a Just and Durable Peace" at the forum session of the International Convention at Grand Rapids on Saturday afternoon, August 1 at two o'clock. Dr. Palmer was one of the delegates to the Delaware Conference and took a prominent part in its deliberations.

The Department of Social Education announces the publication of a Leader's Guide on the Report of the Conference, providing comprehensive helps for discussion leaders. Available from The United Society, 222 Downey Ave., Indianapolis, for 10¢. Other helps can be secured from the Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Early reports indicate that the Delaware Conference may have a significance for American Christianity comparable to the importance of the Malvern Conference of 1941 for the British churches. The conclusions of that gathering have attracted worldwide attention. The Federal Council has already shipped 65,000 copies of the Delaware Conference report (title: The Message of the National Study Conference on the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace, price 10¢; 50 copies or more 5¢ each, plus postage.) Some communions are putting a copy into the hands of every minister. The report will be the subject of study and discussion in many denominational and interdenomination conventions and conferences during the ensuing months. It is being widely used in young peoples' and adult summer conferences as the basis of peace studies. Study classes are being organized in many local churches. The First Christian Church, South Bend, Indiana, F. E. Davison, pastor, reports a class of 125 men studying the report. First Christian Church, Springfield, Illinois has ordered 100 copies.

There are many who believe that the end of the war will be materially hastened if the Christian churches of the world can propose a peace settlement that offers any assurance of justice and permanence. Dictators are frankly threatening their people with the consequences of defeat. If the Christians of the world can promise with any degree of assurance that defeat will not mean complete destruction of the vanquished the chances of ending the war are materially enhanced. After all, only that sort of peace can be just and durable.

CIO UNIONS ADOPT WAR PROGRAM

Congressional demands for stringent legislation outlawing the 40-hour week and other gains of labor has died down. The demand was never justified by the facts and those who urged it did not have the support of President Roosevelt, the War Labor Board, the War Production Board, or the Army and the Navy. Perhaps one reason for the sudden cessation of anti-labor propaganda was the fact that labor organizations showed that their members were already doing their share toward the national effort, as evidenced by the program adopted by the UAW-CIO, published in the United Automobile Worker on April 15. The program is summarized below:

1. For the duration UAW-CIO workers will surrender all contract rights for double pay for Sundays and holidays and for time-and-a-half on Saturdays. Time-and-a-half shall be paid for all work over 8 hours in any one day and for all time beyond 40 hours in any 7 day work week, and for all work on the 6th day of any 7 day work week. Work on the 7th day in any work week shall be paid for at double time.

2. Pledge to refrain from strikes and stoppages of work and to submit all disputes to mediation, conciliation or arbitration for the duration.

3. Collective and individual effort to increase all war production by all means available.

4. Urges operation of war production plants on 24 hour, 7 day week basis. To avoid hardship on workers and their families normal shifts should be fully manned before swing shifts are set up.

In turn the UAW-CIO workers declare that the successful defense of democracy demands the following program:

1. End all war profiteering. Rigid control of profits to 3% on actual capital investment; all earnings above 3% to revert to the Government.

2. No war-time millionaires. Ceiling on individual incomes at \$25,000.

3. Stop rising costs - prevent inflation.

4. Ration all food, clothing, housing, and other necessities. Rationing boards to be composed of representatives of government, consumers, labor and agriculture.

5. All wages adjusted to living costs.

6. Security for dependents of men and women in the armed services.

7. A moratorium on debts of those unemployed through conversion of industry to war work and those in the armed forces.

8. Organize a Labor Production Division in the War Production Board to encourage, survey, and recommend suggestions for increasing war production.

9. Create at once an agency representative of government, labor, industry, and agriculture to plan post-war adjustment.

10. If the foregoing 9 suggestions are adopted the UAW-CIO agrees to take all wages for time over 40 hours per week in non-negotiable special defense bonds.

These proposals involve considerable sacrifice for the workers. Surrender of double time except for the seventh day in a work week relinquished a contract right. The right to strike is given up for the duration. In return the workers ask only what the nation will eventually be compelled to do anyway.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS STILL DOING IMPORTANT WORK

The League of Nations is not dead and it is still performing important functions even in a world at war, says a release of the League of Nations Association, Inc., 8 West 40th St. New York.

The League was organized in 1920 as man's first attempt to organize his world for peace. Sixty-three nations joined it. Only two nations never joined - the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. It has settled more than 30 international disputes peacefully. It has been directly responsible for coordinating the special services of the world. Its activities on behalf of child welfare, control of dangerous drugs, prevention of the spread of epidemics, refugee work, etc., have been welcomed by all nations. The League's emphasis upon the need of nutritional standards has helped to focus attention throughout the world on better nutrition.

The League is still hard at work, even in war-time. More than 100 persons are carrying on its technical activities in Geneva. Forty-eight nations still hold membership, 19 of them members of the United Nations. A part of the League staff of its Economic, Financial, and Communications Section has been transferred to Princeton, N.J., where it is carrying on a world economic survey to aid reconstruction in the post-war world. A branch office of the Drug Supervisory Body has been opened in Washington to continue supervision of the narcotic traffic. Much of the League's regular materials consisting of statistics, economic surveys, health bulletins, armament year books, etc., are still published and continue to be in demand. The League plans to make its invaluable experience in economics and finance, health and nutrition, child welfare, minority and refugee problems, education, etc., available for world reconstruction at the close of the war. The League's budget has never exceeded ten million dollars a year - less than the budget of our own State Department - and a mere drop in the bucket compared to even the peacetime appropriations for the Army and the Navy.

The League of Nations Association, Inc., is an organization devoted to promoting the work of the League, especially with reference to eventual American membership. It carried the brunt of the fight during the campaign for American membership in both the League and the World Court. It prepares and distributes material for high school, college, and adult use on the past and present work of League agencies. It studies possible changes in structure and function to make the League a fit instrument for future service. Its Youth Section carries on a varied program designed to make youth, as those upon whom the decisions of tomorrow will rest, aware of the League and its accomplishments. The Educational Committee sponsors a competitive examination for students of high schools annually. During the current school year 1170 schools were registered for this contest. The Association also published a monthly journal, Changing World, devoted to resistance to aggression and to the conviction that international organization is the essential basis of peace. Twenty years ago the American people made a big mistake. Perhaps we shall have opportunity now to rectify it.

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Under date of April 22, the Associated Press, carried a story from Washington stating that Attorney General Biddle had appointed two Georgia lawyers to direct a federal grand jury investigation into "the alleged slavery practices of William Tolivar Cunningham of Lexington, Georgia." "According to complaints," the department said, "Oglethorpe county court records show that Cunningham repeatedly charged Negro field hands who left or 'escaped' his employment with past misdemeanors, re-employing them after their arrest and after short terms on the chain gang. The complaints alleged that Cunningham recruited a substantial part of his plantation labor from local jails by paying the fines of Negro prisoners and, in some instances, arranging for their bond and for subsequent dismissal of charges against them. On one occasion, the complaints charge, Cunningham accompanied an Oglethorpe county officer to Chicago to assist in an unsuccessful attempt to extradite three former employees whom he had caused to be indicted after leaving his employment." **NOTE:** This is further development of the Chicago case which was noted in Social Action Newsletter at the time.

Evidence that liquor manufacturers and distributors, especially the wine and distilled spirits industries, are fearful of the return of drastic liquor legislation is seen in the announcement of the organization of "The Conference of Alcoholic Beverage Industries" in New York City. Composed of the Distilled Spirits Institute, the League of Distilled Spirits Rectifiers, the National Ass'n. of Alcoholic Beverage Importers, the Wine Institute, the Finger Lakes Wine Growers Ass'n., the National Tavern Ass'n., the National Retail Liquor Package Stores Ass'n., Inc., and the American Hotel Ass'n., the organization's announced aims are "combating prohibition trends" by giving the public "an understanding of the fundamental soundness of the liquor business," and "comparing present conditions with the abuses of the past" so that "the public will continue to prefer a regulated and self-respecting liquor business to the lawlessness that has always attended prohibition." Significantly or otherwise, neither the United States Brewers Ass'n., nor the Brewing Industry Foundation are mentioned as members.

Persons interested in the study of control of prostitution and venereal disease in camp and industrial defense communities should send 10¢ to Public Affairs Committee, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, for Prostitution and the War, written by Philip S. Broughton of the Federal Security Agency. This is the bureau that has responsibility for camp conditions through its Division of Social Protection, under the chairmanship of Charles P. Taft. Also recommended is the February 1939 issue of the Journal of Social Hygiene, 50 W. 50th Street, New York, which outlines a community program.

The Department of Social Education and Action of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania announces the publication of American Rural Life - A Christian Concern, compiled by Benson Y. Landis. Price 25¢.

HELPS FOR THE STUDY OF "A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE"

Elsewhere in this issue attention is called to the message of the Delaware Conference on the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace. Below we list some of the more valuable resources for the benefit of churches and other groups contemplating organizing groups for the study of the report. The more important resources are marked (*).

Leader's Guide, *10¢, for the Delaware Conference message

A Just and Durable Peace, *10¢, contains summaries of numerous proposals.

A Christian Imperative, by Roswell Barnes, cloth \$1.00; paper 60¢. Traces the developing world church. Order the above from The United Christian Missionary Society, Indianapolis.

Handbook on the Delaware Conference, *15¢, from The Christian Century, Chicago, Illinois.

Packet of Materials on A Just and Durable Peace, from Federal Council of Churches, New York.*

Newsletter* of World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches, 70 Fifth Ave., New York, especially issues that summarize religious proposals for world organization.

Religion and the World of Tomorrow, by Van Kirk, \$1.50, Willett, Clark & Co., Chicago, Illinois important background material.

The Road We are Traveling, * by Stuart Chase. \$1.00.

April 1942 publication. First of a series of six studies on When the War Ends. Subsequent volumes: Goals for America; Problems of Post-War Finance; Problems of Our Foreign Commerce; Farmer, Worker, Businessman: Their place in Post-War America; Winning the Peace. \$5.00 for the series. Twentieth Century Fund, New York.

European Agreements for Post-War Reconstruction.

Toward a New World Order, by Vera M. Dean, 25¢ each. Foreign Policy Ass'n., 8 W. 40th, N.Y.C.

The United States in a New World; Relations With Britain, by Raymond Leslie Buell. Reprint from Fortune, May 1942. Time and Life Building, New York.

METHODISTS PLAN SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

The Methodist Church announces plans for youth work camps at Norwich, Ohio, Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittman Center, Tennessee, and a fourth in co-operation with the Friends in California. The camp at Norwich, Ohio will renovate an old church for use as a community center, carry on a vacation church school, and a recreational program for children and young people, while studying the social, economic, and religious problems of a rural community. The camp at Pittman Center will undertake improvements on the playgrounds of a settlement project carried on by the church in the Mountains of Tennessee, while studying the social and religious problems of a typical mountain community. The Dearborn camp will continue a project in the River Rouge industrial section of the Detroit area begun last summer, involving the construction of a playground and supplying leadership for recreational, and vacation church school projects. The camp will have as headquarters the Mt. Olivet Community Methodist Church, whose pastor is Rev. Owen Geer. The California camp will aid Japanese and Italian students caught in the evacuation program.

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL PLANS SUMMER MIGRANT WORK

One of the tasks of the church that no one religious body is equipped to do and which must be undertaken by interdenominational forces is that of providing religious service to several hundred thousands of migrant workers who harvest our crops each year. Much has been written about these workers and much remains to be written before the United States awakes to its responsibility for them. Beginning with the winter gardens and citrus fruits of Florida and the Rio Grande Valley they move northward along the Atlantic Coast harvesting fruits and vegetables till they reach New Jersey, the tobacco fields of Connecticut and the potato fields of Maine. Others move into the berry fields of Louisiana and Arkansas, the berries and fruits of southern Illinois, the onions in Ohio, tomatoes in Indiana, to the sugar beet fields of Michigan. Pacific Coast migrant workers harvest the cotton and fruits of Arizona and California, moving north to the orchards and hop fields of Oregon and Washington. Others follow cotton north from Texas through Oklahoma to the melons and beets of Colorado and Nebraska.

At a meeting of the Home Missions Council in New York on April 6, Mrs. Gertrude F. Zimand, of the National Child Labor Committee gave some alarming figures on the effect of war conditions on child labor, both in industry and agriculture. In the 36 States which do not have the 16-year compulsory school law there has been a sharp increase in the number of students under 16 leaving school for employment. In 1941 the increase was 100% over 1940. The exodus of the 16-17 year olds from high school to work is in some instances as much as 400%. The prompting cause is high wages. The situation is made worse by bills introduced in some legislatures to lower the age limit at which children are allowed to work and to lengthen the hours of labor permitted. Some want the child labor provisions of the Wage and Hour law lowered to permit children of 14 to go to work. Beet sugar companies want the limit lowered to 10 years. In some states it is proposed to suspend the child labor laws for the duration. In agriculture the problem is even more complicated. In some states the law provides a minimum age for working during school months, but these vary and enforcement is difficult, especially among migrants.

The Farm Security Administration carries on a program of service to migrant workers. In the area from Maryland to Maine this summer 19 camps will be established. Each camp will have about 150 tents, each accommodating a small family or 5 single men, with beds, table and oil stove furnished. Cooking facilities are provided in a community kitchen. Sanitary toilets and showers are furnished. Each camp will have a clinic in a trailer with a full-time nurse. Local doctors are employed. Physical examinations are made and cases of venereal disease discovered (the rate is about 30% among these workers) are treated as far as possible. When the group moves on such cases are reported to the next location. The camps are comfortable, clean and sanitary. The Home Missions Council supplies ministers, vacation church school workers, day nursery workers, nurses, and in some cases, recreational leadership. An effort is made

to introduce these migrant workers to the churches in the areas in which they move, but these attempts have not been very successful, due to reluctance of the workers on the one hand and sometimes to the lack of welcome on the part of the people of the community, who seem to regard them as tramps or beggars.

The work carried on by the Council among migrants is of a varied type. A young Negro ministerial student joins a group of berry pickers in southern Illinois, wins their friendship, serves them, teaches them and preaches to them and moves with them to the beet fields of Michigan. A young woman preparing for Christian social work goes to the onion fields of Ohio as soon as school is out, opens a community center and a day nursery, organizes Bible classes, sewing classes and a vacation church school. A missionary nurse moves from the Merced-Fresno grape region to the peas, fruits, and early vegetables of the upper San Joaquin Valley. A young minister makes the Imperial Valley his home mission field, laboring among the Mexicans, Italians, and Japanese. Another minister gives up his pastoral unity to become a missionary pastor to the migrant vegetable and melon workers of the Arkansas River Valley and to the beet workers of Nebraska. Thus the church serves its people who have no place to call home.

J.B.HUNTER AIDS JAPANESE CHRISTIAN IN EVACUATION

J.B.Hunter, whose years of missionary service in Japan admirably fits him for the difficult task, is representing the United Society and the brotherhood in the evacuation of Japanese Christians, as particularly those of our own church at Los Angeles, from the restricted area. Personal letters from Mr. Hunter convey something of the heartache and tragedy that this move involves for these people, 70% of whom are American citizens. In cooperation with pastors and representatives of the California Christian Missionary Society, Mr. Hunter has helped Ministers Unoura and Kubota in their heart-breaking task of getting their people ready for the trek to their new homes. Contrary to first understandings, the members of the Japanese Christian Church were not sent to one camp. It will therefore be necessary to render service to them in the various camps to which they have been sent. An enlightening article on the situation is found in Survey Graphic, April, under the title "Evacuation, American Style."

SECTION 562 P. L. & R

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